

David Robertson youth winner

Callum Ullman-Smith has been out recording wild flowers, fungi and basically everything with his mother since he was tiny. He is now 13.

He developed a personal passion for amphibians and began recording coastal palmate newt populations in Highland in spring/summer 2011 when he was 8 years old.

In 2012 Callum began a research project to investigate whether stable breeding populations of palmate newts occur in coastal brackish rock pools.

His first report was published in the Highland Naturalist (May 2012, No. 8, 7-8). Over the following three years he sampled up to 9 rock pools on a monthly basis (weather-dependant!) - his results were presented at the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Symposium at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 2014.

He has also been a regular seashore recorder on the Highland Seashore Project for the past three years.

David Robertson (1806–1896) was a Scottish naturalist who founded the [University Marine Biological Station at Millport](#), which opened in 1897. Millport Marine Biological Station closed in 2013, but reopened in 2014 as Millport Field Centre thanks to the Field Studies Council.